



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

January 6, 2025

The Honorable Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary of Transportation,

I write to express my strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for funding through the FY 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant program. MaineDOT's project, *Sparking New Life into Maine's Star City* consists of significantly improving multimodal infrastructure and increasing safe access to businesses along Main Street/U.S. Route 1 through downtown Presque Isle. The Project is part of MaineDOT's Village Partnership Initiative, a program developed by the department to assist municipalities with projects that balance the use and safety of all village patrons, whether in automobiles, walking, or bicycling.

The City of Presque Isle is a significant regional service center in rural northern Maine. U.S. Route 1, which bisects downtown, has long been the sole freight route in the region, serving the area's important forestry, agriculture, and military industries and is a vital trade lane with Canada. Because of growing freight and regional traffic, the city's downtown transportation infrastructure experiences significant deterioration and contributes to unsafe conditions for users of all transportation modes.

The proposed project includes redesigning numerous streets to include safe traffic calming features, sidewalks, and crosswalks; repaving or rebuilding roadways, sidewalks, and pathways to address structural deficiencies; and reconfiguring a dangerous five-way intersection to reduce crashes and increase multimodal safety.

I am pleased MaineDOT, in coordination with the City of Presque Isle, is seeking assistance from USDOT for this important Project and hope USDOT will assist in funding these improvements. The Project will return transportation in Presque Isle to a state of good repair while maintaining the character of the community through safe mobility options and connectivity to employment and businesses.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



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